

CLAIMS:

1. A network service wherein:

a service provider provides to a user whose user eligibility has been confirmed in advance a user identification file that can be installed in a client computer that said user is using, and

upon an access request from said client computer, said service provider checks in a browser screen whether there is a user identification file residing in said client computer, wherein

a specific service is provided only to access requests from a client computer on which a user identification file is confirmed to be present.

2. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said user identification file has no effects on existing programs on said client computer when installed, said user identification file being equipped with computer identification symbols that allow confirmation of existence of said user identification file in said browser screen.

3. The network service according to Claim 2, wherein said computer identification symbols are comprised of an array of a plurality of ASCII characters.

4. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said service provider provides said user with said user identification file stored on a magnetic medium.

5. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said service provider installs said user identification file on one or a plurality of computers owned by said user.

6. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said user installs said user identification file on one or a plurality of computers that said user owns.

7. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said user eligibility is confirmed upon agreement of a service use contract between said service provider and said user.

8. The network service according to Claim 7, wherein said service use contract is an agency contract.

9. The network service according to Claim 5, wherein said confirmation of user eligibility is conducted when said user identification file is installed by said service provider.

10. The network service according to Claim 4, wherein provision of said magnetic medium to said user is conducted by an ordinary means of delivery, and said user eligibility is confirmed upon completion of delivery to said user of said magnetic medium.

11. The network service according to Claim 4, wherein said service provider provides said magnetic medium and confirms said user eligibility by visiting said user.

12. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said service provider provides user identification files having the same content therein to all users or a plurality of users to whom said service provider intends to authorize access rights.

13. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein entry of user information that includes no confidential information unique to a user is requested as a condition for logging into a user-only screen for use of a specific service.

14. The network service according to Claim 13, wherein said user information is a user ID and/or password provided by said service provider.

15. The network service according to Claim 13, wherein confirmation of presence of computer identification symbols is initiated upon operation of logging into a user-only screen from an entry screen of said user information.

16. The network service according to Claim 13, wherein only when presence of computer identification symbols is confirmed, an entered user information is compared with user information stored in a database and then correspondence of said user information is confirmed, thus allowing login to said user-only screen from said entry screen of said authentication information.

17. The network service according to Claim 1, wherein information in said user identification file is held in cookie, and information held in said cookie is erased when connection to said network terminates.